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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today we welcome back Rabbi Moshe Feller, director at Upper Midwest Merkos-Lubavitch House in St. Paul, MN, who will lead the Senate in prayer.

The guest Rabbi offered the following prayer:

By the grace of God, Almighty God, I invoke Your blessing today on this august body, the U.S. Senate. In their divinely inspired wisdom, the Founding Fathers of our blessed country, the United States of America, established a policy of separation of church and state. However, it was never their intention to separate our country from You, sovereign ruler of all mankind. Hence, both legislative bodies of our blessed country begin their sessions invoking Your divine presence and guidance in their legislation. Hence, in our Pledge of Allegiance we declare "one Nation under God," on our currency is printed "In God We Trust," and on the walls of this very Senate hall in which we invoke Your blessing is engraved in bold letters "In God We Trust."

Grant, Almighty God, that the Senators realize that in legislating just laws they are fulfilling one of the seven commandments which You issued to Noah and his family after the great flood as related in the book of Genesis and its sacred commentaries—the command that every society govern by just laws.

Almighty God, I beseech You today to bless the Senate in the merit of one of the spiritual giants of our time and our Nation, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson of saintly blessed memory, who passed away 19 years ago today. The Rebbe labored with great love, dedication, and self-sacrifice to make all mankind aware of Your sacred presence.

May his memory be for a blessing and his merit be for a shield for our government and our Nation, which he always referred to as "a nation of kindness." Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDING OFFICER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 11, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COWAN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks—and today we will hear from Senator MCCONNELL first—the Senate will resume the motion to proceed to the comprehensive immigra-

tion legislation. The time until 12:30 will be equally divided and controlled between the proponents and opponents of this legislation.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 to allow for the weekly caucus meetings. At 2:15 there will be a cloture vote to proceed to the immigration legislation. If cloture is invoked, the time until 4 p.m. will be equally divided, and at 4 p.m. there will be a vote on the adoption of the motion to proceed so we can begin debate on that legislation.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, at any given time in our Nation's history, lawmakers have been faced with many pressing challenges. Some, by their very nature, demand immediate action. Others simply build over time, so forcing action on them usually involves some combination of both foresight and persuasion.

The great challenge of our own day, in my view, is figuring out how to reform government programs that are growing so big so fast that, unless we act, they will eventually consume the entire Federal budget. This is an issue I have devoted a lot of time and energy to over the last few years and that I had hoped the two parties could resolve in a way that would win the support of the public and the markets. As it turned out, the President wasn't as interested in that kind of an agreement as I was, so last year I reluctantly concluded we wouldn't be able to do anything significant about entitlements anytime soon. Without Presidential leadership, something such as that is just simply impossible. Hopefully, the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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